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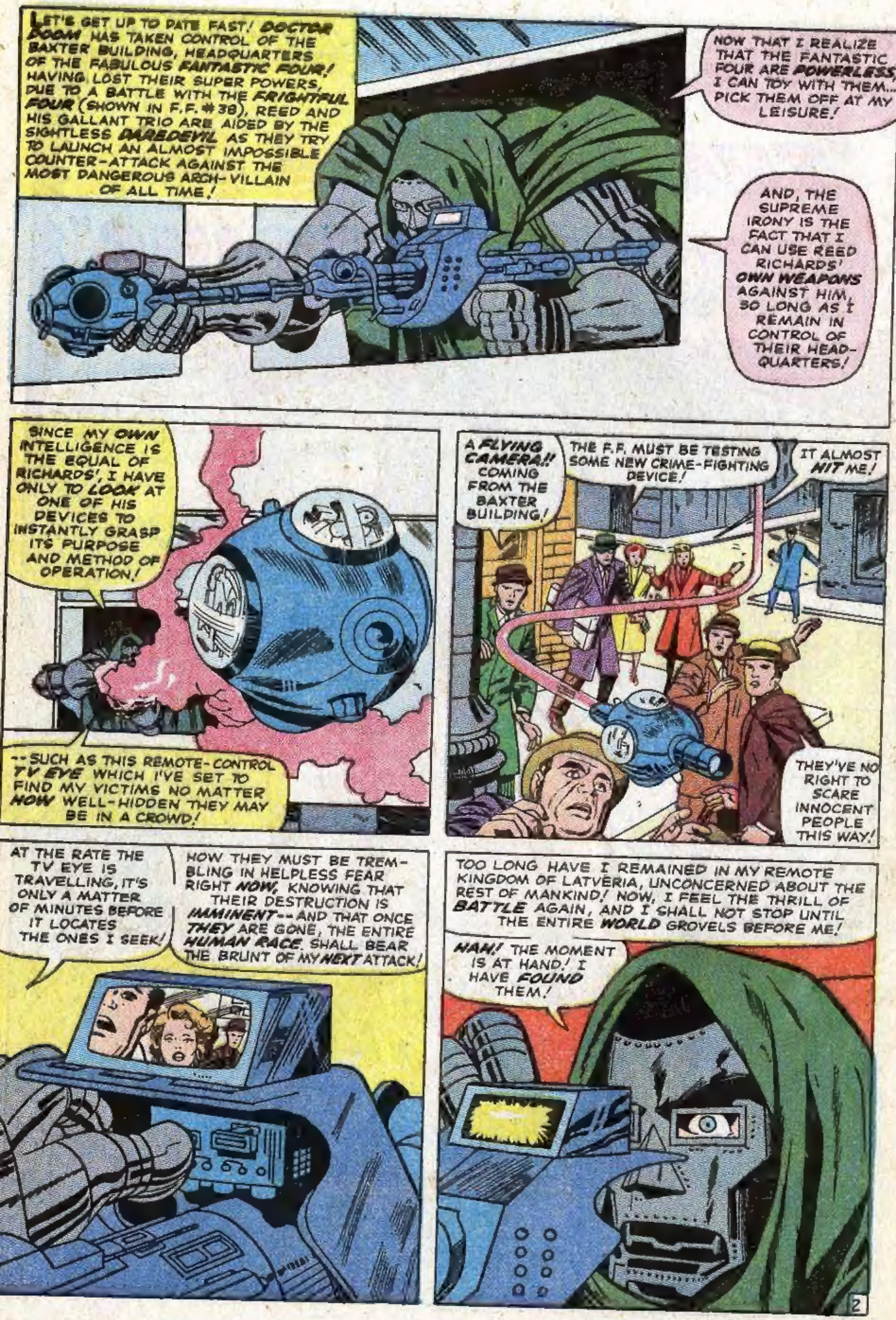

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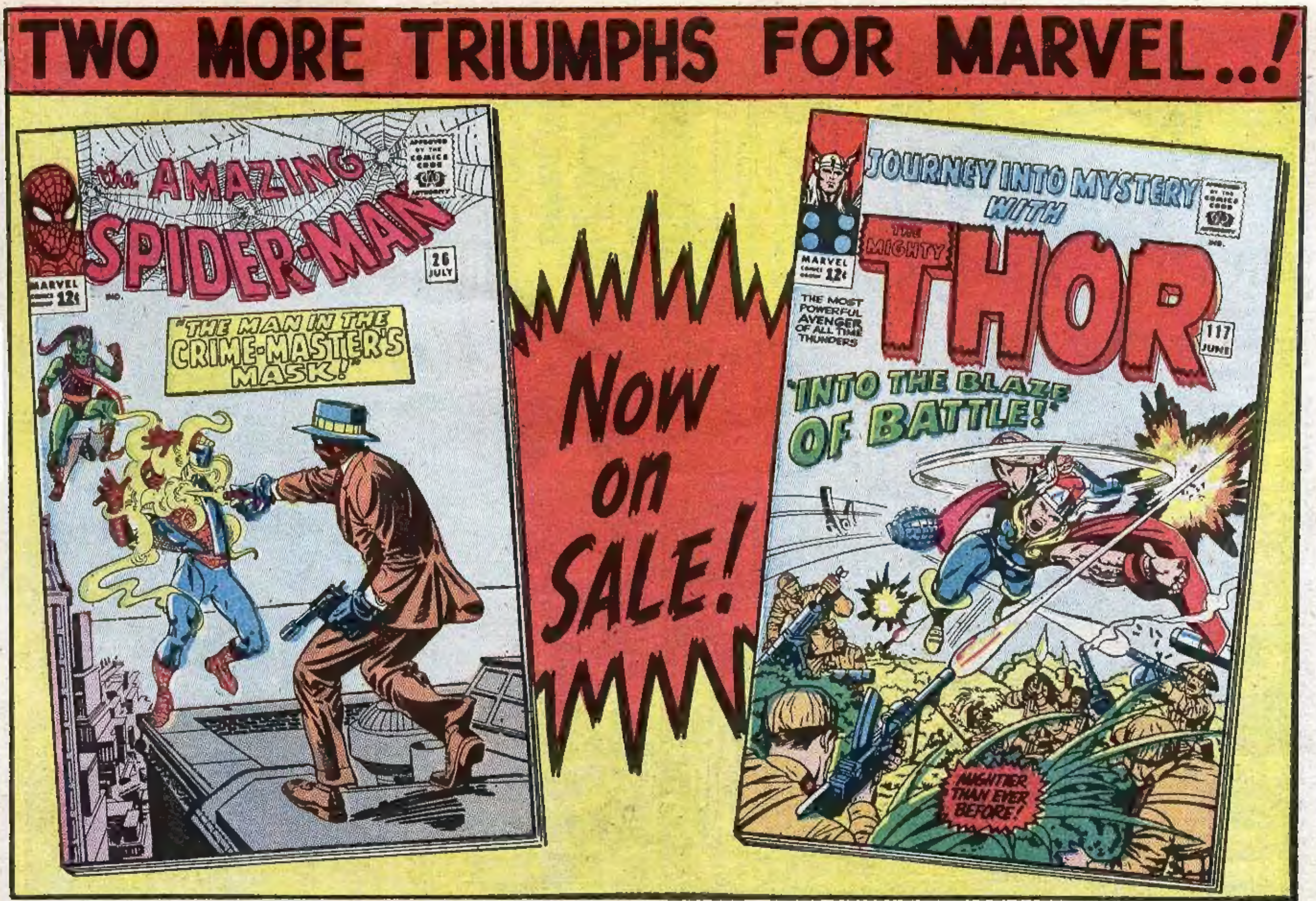

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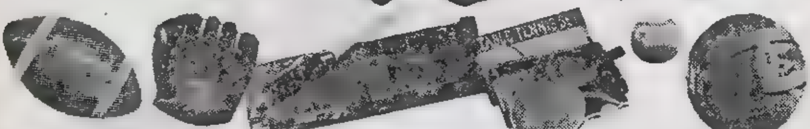

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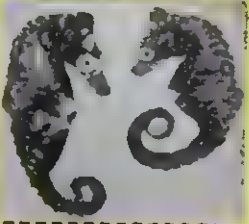

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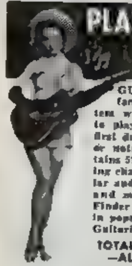

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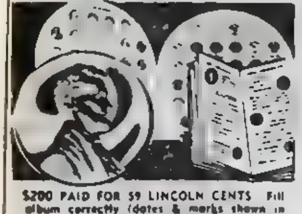

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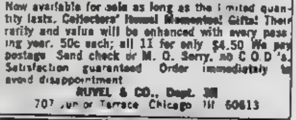

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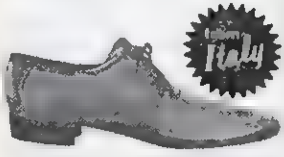

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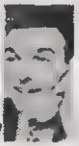

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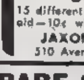

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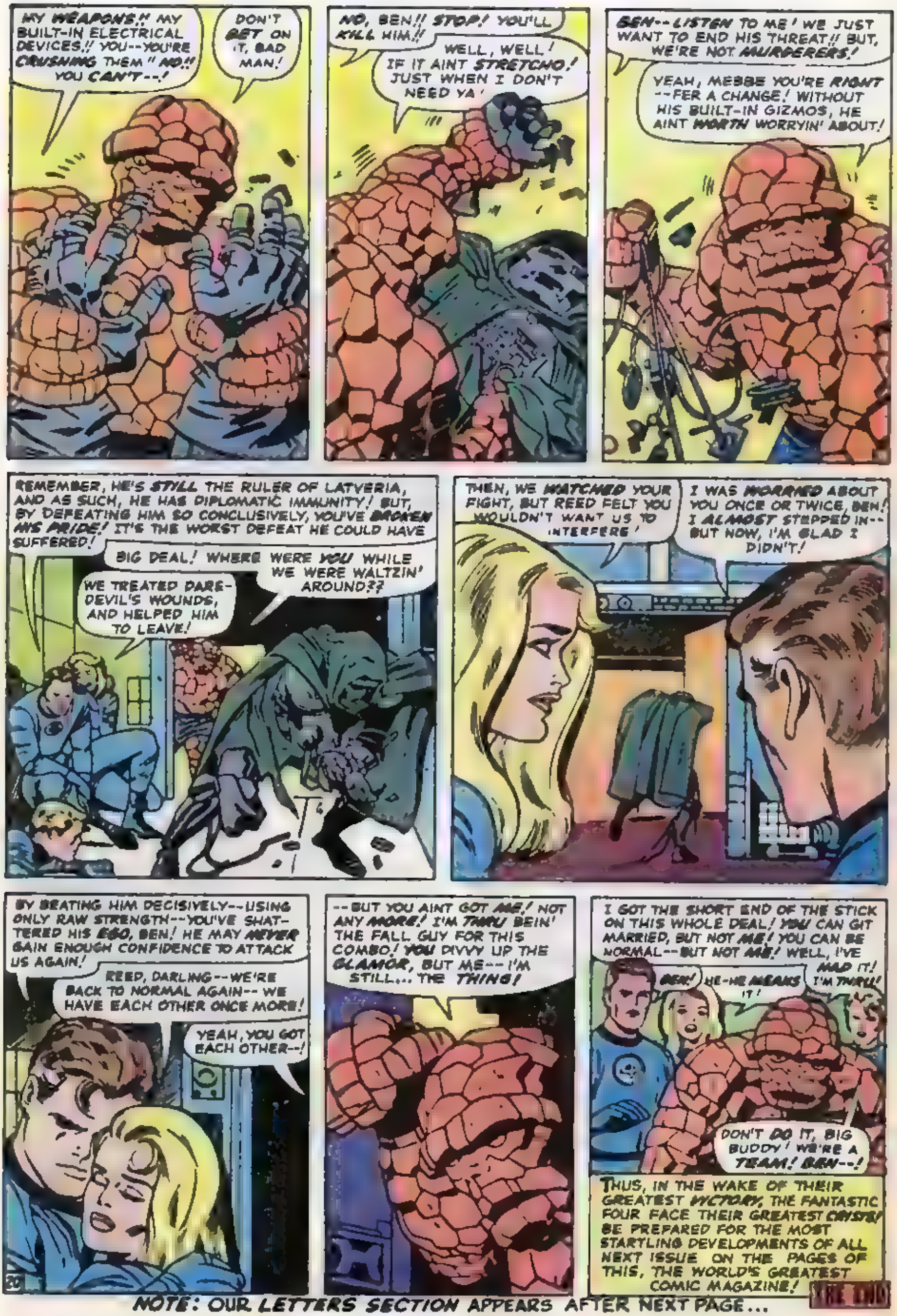

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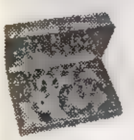

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F.F. 40

HI, GANG!
LET'S FACE IT! I'M A MARVEL MADMAN, TOO! HERE'S MY HARD-EARNED BUCK! NOW, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS RUSH ALL THOSE NUTTY GIZMOS REAL FAST, TO.....

NAME ____________________

ADDRESS ____________________

CITY __________ STATE __________ AGE ____

SCHOOL, COLLEGE or OCCUPATION ____________________

'NUFF SAID!

FACE FRONT!

AWAAAY WE GO.....!

PREEEESENTING: THE MOST DARINGLY DIFFERENT GIMMICK EVER OFFERED BY ANY WORLD-WIDE SOCIETY! FROM NOW ON, EACH MIGHTY MARVEL MAG WILL FEATURE ***25 NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF M.M.M.S. MEMBERS!*** (THE NAMES WILL BE DIFFERENT IN EACH TITLE, SO WE'LL ACTUALLY BE PRINTING HUNDREDS OF NAMES EACH MONTH!)

WHATEVER YOU DO, ***DON'T*** WRITE TO ASK US WHICH MAG YOUR NAME WILL BE IN! THE NAMES ARE PICKED OUT OF A SACK AT RANDOM EACH MONTH, AND HALF THE FUN WILL BE TRYING TO FIND YOUR OWN!

EVEN IF YOU ***MISS*** YOUR NAME, THERE'S STILL HOPE! WITH COUNTLESS THOUSANDS OF MAGAZINE READERS THROUGHOUT THE FREE WORLD SCANNING THE LISTS EACH ISH, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE SOME FRIEND WILL CALL TO CONGRATULATE YOU, EVEN IF YOU YOURSELF MISSED YOUR NAME!

(AND, IF THIS KEEPS YOU BUYING ALL OUR TITLES REGULARLY, THAT WON'T BREAK OUR AVARICIOUS LITTLE HEARTS EITHER!)

Jack Callenberg
Mt. Jewett, Pa.

Steve Ayers
White Plains, N. Y.

Paul Otto
Windsor, New York

Fred Coy
Rensselaer, N. Y.

Ricky Stephan
Louisville, Ky.

Henry Wiencek
Palatine, Ill.

Martin D. Jacobs
San Jose, Calif.

David Manry
Houston, Texas

Tom Friedman
Houston, Texas

Michael Breiding
Morgantown, W. Va.

Herman Hailey
Houston, Texas

Kim Metzger
Columbia City, Ind.

Scotty Gibbs
Huntsville, Texas

Norvel D. Irwin
Prairie City, Ore.

Andrew Wolff
Utica, New York

Bill Cunningham
San Antonio, Texas

Tim Dunham
Tipp City, Ohio

Bill Hasoff
Elkhart, Ind.

Frank D. Asplund
Greenwood, Ind.

Sammy Larsh
Corpus Christi, Texas

Donald C. Williams
Albany, New York

Robert Dalton
Rapid City, Mich.

Steven W. Hirsch
Albany, New York

John Angel
Winston Salem, N. C.

Bud Plant
San Jose, Calif.

BIG NEWS!! COMING NEXT ISSUE!!

YOU DIDN'T THINK THAT PRINTING YOUR NAME WAS ***ALL*** WE'D DO FOR OUR MERRY MARCHERS, DID YOU?? STARTING NEXT ISH, WE'RE GONNA HAVE A SPECIAL ***OFFER*** FOR YOU ... THE FIRST OF ***MANY*** SUCH OFFERINGS! AS USUAL, WE WANT IT TO BE A SURPRISE, SO WE'LL SAY NO MORE ABOUT IT TILL THEN, BUT YOU CAN BE SURE OF THIS...IT'LL BE WORTH WAITING FOR! 'NUFF SAID!

It's Easy To Subscribe! (if you're rich) Rush a check or money order to- Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 625 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y. 10022 telling us which titles you're panting for. The bite is $1.75 for 12 issues — more expensive than our competitors — but a bargain because they're MARVEL MAGS!

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FANTASTIC FAN PAGE 4

Send your letters to:
LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR
625 MADISON AV.
NEW YORK, 10022
N. Y.

—It's strange how life always seems to mix up the good with the bad. Our four heroes have succeeded in defeating Dr. Doom, against almost impossible odds, and yet they now find themselves facing one of their greatest crises. But, let's turn to lighter matters for a moment as we see what some of our capricious correspondents have to say . . .

Dear Stan and Jack
Just a question pertaining to ish #36 of the F.F. In many places thruout the mag Sandman and Paste-pot Pete have conversations which sound as though we're listening to a comedy routine by comedian Bill Cosby! Confess, Stan! Are you a Cosby nut like we here in the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity house are? Next to your own great magazines, I like Cosby best. Also, where is the Yancy Street Gang? I've never seen them even though ol' Benjamin is always referring to them.

Harvey Buchbinder, Treas.
A.E.P. Fraternity, Ohio State U.

We followed Bill Cosby's career from the beginning, Harve, and we dig him as much as you do, so we're flattered by your comment. As for the Yancy Street yahoos, we can't draw them in our stories because we've never seen them, either! And, you know how principled we are! We only draw things we've actually seen—like Martians, mole men, Skrulls, and flaming, flying teen-agers!

Dear Stan and Jack,
F.F. #36 was just great. The Frightful Four was marvelous. I really like them because the Sandman and Madam Medusa have real powers, and the Wizard and Paste-Pot Pete have super weapons. In this way, they are great. Jack's artwork was really good in this issue, and Stan's story was terrific! I hope to see more of the Frightful Four in some future issue. I have never enjoyed any other comic magazines except Marvel!

Jim Martin, 14733 Kingsbury St.
Mission Hills, Calif.

You mean there are *others?*

Dear Stan and Jack,
Wow!! Have you done it this time with F.F. #35! It was terrific, especially that Dragon Man—he was the most. Bringing Diablo back was brilliant of you. My only complaint is at the end of the book when Reed and Sue walked through Memory Lane to the Sweetheart Tree—this was disgraceful!! Jeffrey Dietrich, 33 Crest Drive So. Creskill, N. J.

What in the name of Aunt Petunia was disgraceful about Stretcho and Sweetums walking to the Sweetheart Tree? What did you *want* them to do—ride there on pogo sticks? Golly, Jeff, you know how it upsets us to be criticized!—Especially for being romantic!

Dear Stan and Jack,
For once I'm going to be serious in a letter to Marvel Comics. Why? Well, it's about a letter written by a member of a left-wing organization in England. He criticized Marvel for downgrading communism. Obviously, he is not a steady reader of Marvel's publications, or else he would have seen the issue of FANTASTIC FOUR where Stan left it up to us whether Marvel should keep downgrading communism. The majority of the readers said "yes." You see, the readers of Marvel and the Marvel bullpen are well informed and know that communism in any form is dangerous to democracy. If anyone wants to read a publication that will support communism, try "Pravda."

Joseph Hartlaub, 113 Blue Hill Lane
Akron, Ohio 44313

And, if you think *our* subscriptions are expensive, wait'll you see *their* rates!

Dear Stan and Jack,
Your mag is the greatest, but you need some sharp-eyed proofreaders. The cover of F.F. #36 is full of mistakes Madam Medusa's hair goes higher than the top of the building What is she hanging down from—a cloud? Thing's hand is sticking out of the window, but you still show it with glass in it. The cover shows the Frightful Four with costumes of corresponding colors but in the book they do not correspond. Sue's hairstyle changes quickly, doesn't it! Her hairdo in #36 makes her look like a beatnik!

Mike Bophardt, Rt. #4, Box 393
Sherwood, Oregon

But you still haven't told us, Mike—what mistakes did we make?

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SPIDER-MAN #26: Not only is Spidey one of the greatest action characters in the Marvel line-up, but we've now added the element of MYSTERY to his tales! You're sure to go batty as you try to figure out the secret of "The Man in The Crime-Master's Mask!"

AVENGERS #17: When a mag is this good, it's almost a shame to say anything about it! This one has everything! A brand new line-up of Avengers! Captain America more heroic than ever before! And, to top it all off, the sensational theme is: "The Search For The Hulk!" How great can a comic mag get!

X-MEN #11: Another shocker from the House of Ideas! This one was specially produced in answer to many of your earnest requests, and it finally presents the end of the evil mutants! Also, wait till you meet The Stranger!

DAREDEVIL #8: For those of you who've wandered what we could possibly come up with to top our previous sensational D.D. thrillers, here's your answer—in spades! D.D. battles the most off-beat villain of the month (ANY month) when he tackles the startling, stupifying Stiltman! You'll have a ball!

THOR #117: This unforgettable epic is entitled: "Into The Blaze Of Battle!" and you'd better hang onto your seat when you read it! It features Thor's quest for an enchanted packet—a quest which brings him face-to-face with tragedy on an Asiatic battlefield! It's drenched with glory!

STRANGE TALES #134: This month's Torch and Thing thriller features a long-awaited surprise! The title will give you the idea: "Enter—the Watcher!" As for Dr. Strange, he's up to his amulet in all kinds of magical mishaps! This ish is for you!

SUSPENSE #67: Iron Man fights six super-foes in this one and even finds time to bring Happy back to the fold! As for Captain America, he's out to destroy his own nation, under the hypnotic control of the Red Skull! If there's a more exciting mag around, we'll eat it!

ASTONISH #69: Giant-Man finally catches up with the Human Top, and their battle is a joy to behold! As for the incredible Hulk, it's so full of strange surprises that the only thing we'll tell now is that ol' green skin is winning every popularity poll in town hands down!

SGT. FURY #19: Those of you who were shaken up by the death of Pamela Hawley last ish, (and that includes 'most everybody) won't want to miss "An Eye For An Eye" in which Nick Fury meets up with the man responsible for Pam's death! It's stark, gripping drama as only Marvel can present it!

Dear Stan and Jack,
Youch! Yoock! Yeech! I can't hold back any longer! I've just got to write! F.F. #35 was great! The cover was not only flashy, but realistic. The earlier F.F.'s weren't too realistic inside or out, but I stuck to the F.F. faithfully,

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knowing that sooner or later, you guys would do something—and you did! Anyhow, back to #35—State U.'s campus was extremely real looking. The return of Diablo was both unexpected and terrific. It's remarkable how the Thing will tackle anyone or anything like he did the Dragon Man and still retain making those wisecracks no matter what position he's in. As for Johnny, he's okay, except for being a little swelled-headed at times. Reed overdoes it occasionally with his doubletalk, and as for Sue, all I can say is—like wow! That's why I think the F.F. is one of the most rounded-out comics on the market. As for F.F. ANNUAL #3, I say bring on the Hulk. After battling so many menaces with fantastic intelligence, it'll be good for the F.F. to meet someone who depends on raw strength alone. One more thing—as a member in good standing of the M.M.M.S. I say please don't change the costumes of the F.F.

Rick Albright, 319 Lincoln St.
Marysville, Pa. 17053

We don't plan to, Rick, so all is well! Incidentally, when you get a minute, drop us a line and tell us the derivation of "Yoeck," willya?

Dear Stan and Jack,

Last Monday I, along with five other friends, got our Marvel M.M.M.S. kits and we held a meeting to play the record. Man, Stan's got a great voice, but as for Jack—'nuff said!! I hope you put out more records with your other artists' voices.

Michael Sing, M.M.M.S. #558. 3903 Morton St.
Jacksonville, Fla. 32217

We sure will, Mike! You know how sneaky we are—first, we get you hooked on one record! Next, we'll be selling you records of everything from The Yancy Street Glee Club to Aunt Petunia's Recipes! Just wait'n see!

—As you've probably already guessed, the full-page M.M.M.S. announcement which you saw earlier in this ish is the first of many such pages to come. We plan to make it mandatory reading for our merry marchers, and interesting enough for those few misguided souls who haven't yet joined our bullpen bandwagon. Each issue it will contain special offers, announcements, and notices, as well as the usual come-on coupon which, you must agree, is a masterpiece of modesty and understatement! 'Nuff said!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Because of the highly notorious quality of the Frightful Four and their diabolical plan to doom the Fantastic Four, F.F. #36 is my favorite Marvel mag for this month. The tale was dramatic and reminded me of F.F. #6 when Doctor Doom nearly succeeded in destroying the F.F. by drawing them and Sub-Mariner out of Earth's atmosphere in the Baxter Building. Madam Medusa is unique and I hope she returns soon. Paste-Pot Pete and the Wizard have improved a hundredfold since I first saw them in STRANGE TALES #110. On the cover of SPIDER-MAN #22, Spider-Man isn't actually shown on it, and I was wondering if this is another Marvel "first"?

Tom Nester, 7711 88th Ave.
Edmonton, Alta., Canada

Tell you what, Tom — we'll take that up with the SPIDER-MAN department. (Which also happens to be *our* department, but we like to make it sound like a *big* company!) They just told us we should thank you for informing them — they didn't even *know* Spidey wasn't on the cover!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I'm writing this after finishing a batch of your great comics. The F.F. (#35) struck home. I could just picture a flying dragon spitting fire all over the quadrangle. Come to think of it, the biologist's creation looked lots better than the majority of the girls around here! All kidding aside, I think I should get a gold-plated no-prize for the work I've been doing in indoctrinating guys from all over the country in the Marvel tradition. Intellectuals who had never touched a comic since reading Plutarch's Lives in the sixth grade now come into my room nightly and ask if I've purchased any new Marvels. Think of it, at the beginning of school vacation, the University of Chicago students will pour out of the campus and spread the lore of the Thing, Hulk, Thor, Spidey and all of your great characters in every nook and cranny of the United States. Keep up the stupendous art work and plots. 'Nuff said!

David Berman, Room 1422, Pierce Tower
5514 University Ave., Univ. of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Davey, you're the greatest! But, come vacation time, if our sales don't at least *double*, we'll figure you've been puttin' us on!

Dear Stan and Jack,

One reader criticized you, citing a time when back issue Marvel Comics were sold for five cents as though this were ample proof of his assertions. In fact, the success of a comic is not necessarily a function of quality. I, too, gave up comics when the old EC group failed (or at least stopped) and was brought back by your work. It is senseless to talk of one comic being better, for in entertainment value there can be no absolutes. But for me, I feel that Marvel is best. Your characters have more plausible motives, your plots resolve better, your dialogue is better, and you depict real emotions with greater insight. (All this is not to say you can't improve, for you can.) To cite but one example, at first the Beast did seem to me like a copy of the Thing, but subsequent development has given the Beast, and all the X-men, a clearly individual personality. Just keep brewing your blend of imagination and good sense!

Clyde Snyder, Niittykumpu 3.C.57.
Finland

We'll do our best, Clyde, and a "Skoal" to you and all our friends in fabulous Finland!

Dear Stan and Jack,

What on earth are you trying to do? Surely, you're not trying to wreck three of Marvel's characters? With issue #112 of THOR you've made him apparently at least as strong as the Hulk. Great Asgard! Have you forgotten about the once great and mighty Thing? Now the Thing is about one-half as strong as Thor and he can't fly. He has no magical power, he hasn't any super speed, he can't create space warps, he has no contact with Asgard and he has not even a hammer. At least the Hulk can leap. My favorite can't even do that! What have you done?! Thor and the Hulk are far too powerful! I think a lot of other readers may agree with me. Marvel is too uneven!

Mark Lund, R.R. #1
Keremeos, Br. Col., Canada

We can't decide whether you should have sent your letter to us, or to THOR, Mark! Anyway, before you start picketing us, we suggest you wait a few more issues and see if you don't change your mind! We've got some exciting plans for bashful Benjamin, and there's just a slim chance that you may like what happens to him! (There's an equally good chance that you may *not* like it, but we prefer to look at the bright side!)

Dear Stan and Jack,

F.F. #36 was great! The cover was really superb and when I saw the Wizard and Paste-Pot Pete in their new duds, I didn't even recognize them. And then when I saw the first page I was overwhelmed at the announcement of the engagement! Well, then the story went through great heights first with the "bomb" from Yancy Street, then we learned how the Wizard survived from his battle with Torchy in STRANGE TALES #118. And, of course, we learned of Madam Medusa. This set the background for the story. And then the F.F. met their evil counterparts. I was simply thrilled at Johnny's and Alicia's parts in the battle. Well, you've said to try and not make our letters too long, so I'll be signing off with the immortal words of Irving Forbush="Make Mine Marvel!".

John Ellsworth, 11 Glen St.
Hot Springs, Ark.

Irving Forbush? Who's he?

—Before we go, we've got to tell you that our next ish is a real block-buster! But we don't want you to buy it—unless you like action, suspense, mystery, fantasy, and surprises! It promises to be one of Marvel's greatest issues of the season, and if you want to know what happens to blue-eyed Benjamin, all we can tell you is this—even the Yancy Street Gang has pledged not to miss it! So, till we meet again on the pages of FANTASTIC FOUR #41, take care of yourself—a good fan is hard to find!

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Albert Dorne —probably the greatest money-maker in the history of commercial art. At the height of his career, he began a full-time search for people who like to draw.

He's Looking for People Who Like to Draw

TODAY HUNDREDS of men and women who never thought they could be artists are working happily at easels and drawing boards, making pictures and getting well paid for it. They all can thank Albert Dorne, a famous artist who devotes almost his full time to helping other people become artists.

Some of the People Dorne Has Helped

Herb Smith was a payroll clerk. Soon after he started studying with us, he landed an art job with a large printing firm. This was four years ago; today he's head artist for the same firm.

Don Golemba of Detroit is another. He stepped up from railroad worker to the styling department of a big automobile company—by showing his work with the School. Now he helps design new-car models.

Pat Browning wanted to escape from her dull typing job to something creative. Soon after studying with us, she was promoted to full-time artist with the same firm—at much more money.

With the right training, Wanda Pickulski gave up her typing job to become fashion artist for a local department store.

Eric Ericson worked in a garage while he studied art at night. Today he is a successful artist, earns seven times as much, and is building a new home for his family.

Long before Albert Dorne started looking for people who like to draw, they came to him for advice and help. Since he alone could help only a few of these people, he called together America's most successful artists —men like Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Stevan Dohanos and Al Parker.

A Plan to Help Others

He said: "All over America, there are people who like to draw, who could be turned into good artists. Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years? I'm suggesting a new kind of school—a home-study art school that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live."

The famous artists agreed. Taking time from their busy careers, they spent several years creating a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 "here's-how" illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, the famous artists developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training.

Albert Dorne is not surprised by the success of his students. "The art field is growing. We keep getting calls from all over the country, asking us for practical, well-trained students who can step into full-time or part-time art jobs."

Famous Artists Talent Test

To find others with art talent worth developing, the Famous Artists created a 12-page talent test. Thousands paid to take this test, but now the School offers it free and grades it free. Men and women who do well on the test—or can offer other evidence of art talent—may enroll in the School. But there's no obligation. Simply mail the coupon below.

America's 12 Most Famous Artists

Norman Rockwell	Fred Ludekens
Jon Whitcomb	Ben Stahl
Al Parker	Robert Fawcett
Stevan Dohanos	Austin Briggs
George Giusti	Harold Von Schmidt
Peter Helck	Albert Dorne

Famous Artists Schools
Studio 7584, Westport, Conn.

I would like to find out whether I have art talent worth developing. Please send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test and descriptive brochure.

Mr. / Mrs. / Miss ____________ Age ____
← Please circle one and print name

Address ____________

City ____________ Zone ____

County ____________ State ____

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